

Jeremiah 31:7-9  
Psalm 126  
Hebrews 7:23-28  
Mark 10:46-52

## Sermon October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021

### *Jesus Our Messiah*

The disciples, the crowds, the Pharisees, have struggled to understand who Jesus is. They have seen Jesus do many things outside the ordinary. They have seen Jesus heal the sick. Feed the multitudes of those living in poverty with only a few loaves and fish. They have seen him calm the storm. They have heard Jesus speak with such authority. Yet, they can't see that Jesus is the Messiah. The one who will save God's people.

Now a while ago Peter does declare to Jesus and the disciples that Jesus is the Messiah. But this glorious epiphany only lasts for a moment. Eventually, we see the disciples once again doubting. Confused. Wondering how Jesus can do these miraculous things?

In our gospel this morning, Jesus and the disciples walk past a blind person named Bartimaeus who has never seen a miracle of Jesus' (**Image**). And yet, calls out to Jesus as if he is the Messiah. Son of David Bartimaeus yells over and over again. Which is a messianic name.

Peter who declares Jesus' messiahship in secret is now being proclaimed for all to hear by a blind person who hopes Jesus, the Messiah, will stop, have mercy on him, and heal him.

Bartimaeus, the blind person, who cannot see figures out who Jesus is before the disciples, the crowds, the Pharisees are able to.

One thing I learned from being at the Space and Science Center (now known as the Telus Center) as a kid, is that when someone loses the ability of one of their senses, the other senses become heightened to make up for the loss (**Image**). So, if this person has suffered from blindness for most of his life, his hearing is probably much better than ours.

Bartimaeus therefore, might not have seen a miracle before, but has probably heard the crowds talk about Jesus, and all that Jesus has done.

This belief that Jesus is the Messiah gives Bartimaeus the courage to call out to Jesus. To name Jesus publicly. To ask Jesus to help him see again.

Now, sometimes the challenges we face in life make it harder for us to see where God is present. We find ourselves dealing with feelings of doubt and despair when life isn't going our way. We question God or feel disconnected from God in some way. This is our experience some of the time when we face adversity.

But, like Bartimaeus, sometimes the challenges we face in life make us more sensitive to God's presence. We take more time and energy to see where God is at work in our lives (**Image**).

That longing to experience God's healing and liberation from our suffering is a powerful motivator to seek out God. To focus much harder on the little details that might reflect for us where God is at work in our lives. Have you ever felt more connected to God when facing adversity in your life?

Like Bartimaeus, do you believe that Jesus is our Messiah, our saviour, who will heal and redeem us from our suffering? In whatever way this might look. This question is one we ponder when dealing with suffering in our lives. We want to believe. We want to experience God's healing. We want to walk in the light when the darkness is all around us.

And yet, we see that the disciples, the crowds, the Pharisees, struggle to see God at work in the midst of their suffering. Even when witnessing all of these things that Jesus has done.

We see that sometimes, we are like the disciples, the crowds, the Pharisees. We doubt. We get frustrated with our circumstances and ask why. We struggle seeing God's light in the midst of the darkness.

This doesn't mean we are less important than Bartimaeus. Jesus loves us all. Jesus sees that there will be times where our faith lifts us up, and other times where our doubts bring us down. It is part of being human. Our faith will be challenged as we live in a world that is broken and groaning with pain.

But, what we see in our gospel, is that Jesus walks with us (**Image**). Jesus walks with the disciples, the crowds, the Pharisees through their doubts. Jesus walks with Bartimaeus in his moment of extraordinary faith. Jesus walks with us, showing us where God is at work in our lives healing us and redeeming us.

Let us pray, healing God, thank you for sending us Jesus who walks with us through our suffering. Grant us faith so to believe in your promise of healing and redemption for our lives. **Amen.**

